

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 CU-04 SS-20 DRC-01 /089 W

----- 115030

R 161030Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9788

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJ: AAFLI

1. NIKHOM CHANDARAVITON, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THAI LABOR DEPT CALLED EMBASSY LABOR REPORTING OFFICER JANUARY 7 TO REQUEST THAT LATTER INFORM AAFLI DIRECTOR MORRIS PALADINO THAT LABOR DEPT NOW BELIEVED MATTER OF AAFLI WORKER EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THAILAND SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL LATER. NIKHOM SAID HE "DIDN'T THINK TIMING WOULD BE GOOD" FOR AAFLI ENTRY FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. AT LEAST TWO LEADERS OF WORKERS' ASSOCIATIONS THAT PALADINO MET HERE IN DECEMBER HAD EXPRESSED "SOME RESERVATIONS" ABOUT AAFLI PROGRAM.

B. UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION PERIOD.

C. CIA LETTER INCIDENT OF LAST WEEKEND, IN WHICH EMBASSY ADMITTED AND PUBLICLY APOLOGIZED FOR UNAUTHORIZED LETTER WRITTEN TO PRIME MINISTER BY AMERICAN CIA AGENT PURPORTING TO BE FROM THAI COMMUNIST LEADER. NIKHOM ASKED LABOR REPORTING OFFICER TO WRITE LETTER TO PALADINO TO PASS ON ABOVE INFORMATION WITH COPY TO NIKHOM. THIS BEING DONE.

2. SUPACHAI MANUSPHAIBOOL, FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AT CHULALONGKORN
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UNIVERSITY, TOLD LABOR REPORTING OFFICER THAT HE DOUBTED

ACCURACY OF A ABOVE SINCE FOUR WORKER REPRESENTATIVES THAT PALADINO HAD MET HAD NOT YET GOTTEN APPOINTMENT WITH NIKHOM TO DISCUSS AAFLI PROJECT (AS PALADINO HAD SUGGESTED). HOWEVER, SUPACHI AGREED THAT NIKHOM'S POINT C ABOVE HAD SOME VALIDITY. HE SAID "UNIVERSITY WAS VERY WILLING TO ACCEPT PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT WITH AAFLI" BUT "NOT CHASING PROJECT" AND "DOESN'T WANT TO APPEAR A STOOGES" FOR FOREIGN ORGANIZATION. HE SAID HE HAD NO MESSAGE FOR PALADINO HIMSELF, BUT HE MUSED APPROVINGLY THAT LATTER MIGHT WANT TO "SEND A SCOUT" TO ASSESS NEW SITUATION HERE.

3. SANAN WONGSUTEE, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF BATU AND OFFICIAL OF HOTEL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION, TOLD LABOR REPORTING OFFICER JANUARY 10 THAT HE ALSO DOUBTED ACCURACY OF NIKHOM'S STATEMENT IN A ABOVE. HE CONFIRMED SUPACHI'S STATEMENT THAT HE AND OTHER THREE WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES HAD NOT YET RECEIVED APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS AAFLI PROJECT WITH NIKHOM. WHILE CONCEDED VALIDITY OF NIKHOM'S POINT IN C ABOVE, SANAN'S ADVICE TO PALADINO IS TO IGNORE LABOR DEPT AND INTRODUCE AAFLI PROGRAM BY WORKING DIRECTLY WITH UNIVERSITY AND WORKERS' ASSOCIATIONS, BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE THAN ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED. SANAN SAID AAFLI REPS COULD MOVE IN AND OUT OF THAILAND IN SAME MANNER AS BATU PERSONNEL, I.E., COMING IN ON TOURIST VISAS, AVOIDING APPEARANCE OF KIND OF ACTIVITY THAT WOULD REQUIRE WORK PERMIT, LEAVING FOR FEW DAYS AT A TIME, THEN RETURNING.

4. DIRECTOR GENERAL ALSO CALLED IN LABOR REPORTING OFFICER JAN 4 (BEFORE CIA INCIDENT) TO GET LATTER'S VERSION OF PALADINO VISIT AND INSISTED THERE HAD BEEN NO AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON HIS PART. AT THAT TIME HE ALSO INDICATED HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT AAFLI WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTING DIRECTLY LABOR DEPT'S OWN WORKER EDUCATION PROGRAM. LABOR REPORTING OFFICER TOLD NIKHOM DURING JANUARY 7 CALL THAT, AS AAFLI WAS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, MATTER OF ITS ENTRY INTO THAILAND WAS BASICALLY BETWEEN AAFLI AND THAIS.

5. COMMENT: NIKHOM'S SUDDEN REVERSAL OF HIS POSITION ON AAFLI ENTRY IS CHARACTERISTIC MOVE. INDEED, IT WAS HINTED AT EVEN BEFORE PALADINO'S DEPARTURE WHEN LABOR DEPT FAILED TO SEND REP TO FINAL WRAP-UP MEETING. WHILE DIRECTOR GENERAL MAY HAVE BEEN LESS THAN HONEST WITH US ON MATTER OF WORKER REPRESENTATIVES' "RESERVATIONS" ABOUT AAFLI AND HIS POINT (B) ABOUT THE UPCOMING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTIONS WAS EQUALLY VALID DURING PALADINO'S VISIT, THE CIA LETTER INCIDENT HAS INDEED HAD SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS HERE AND LEADS US TO AGREE WITH NIKHOM THAT AAFLI ENTRY SHOULD BE PUT OFF. HOWEVER, WE SEE NO REASON TO CANCEL PLANNED MACDONALD VISIT ON OR ABOUT FEB 1. NATURE OF VISIT WOULD THEN BE TO EXAMINE NEW SITUATION, ASSESS FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR AAFLI PROGRAM HERE AND, IF LATTER SEEMS POSSIBLE LATER THIS YEAR, BEGIN PLANNING DETAILS OF ITS CONTENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PASS SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE TO AAFLI REPS
IN WASHINGTON (PALADINO), MANILA (GOODWIN), AND SAIGON (LYNN
MACDONALD).
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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